



Town of La Plata

2008 Drinking Water Quality Report

PWSID: 008 0025

Important Information about your Drinking Water:

Special points of interest:

- The water at La Plata was tested for over 120 different compounds
- The Town of La Plata Drinking water met both State and Federal requirements
- Drinking Water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some compounds. The presence of these compounds does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline (1-800-426-4791)

We're pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report for 2008. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Maryland Environmental Service, an Agency of the State of Maryland, operates the water treatment facility and prepared this report on behalf of the Town of La Plata.

Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Last year more than 800 tests for over 120 compounds were conducted on the water at La Plata. We want you to understand the efforts made to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

We're pleased to report that your drinking water met both Federal and State requirements. This report shows the water quality and explains what it means.

If you have any questions about this report or have questions concerning your water utility, please contact **Mr. Jay Janney** at **410-729-8350** or jjann@menv.com

We want everyone to be informed about their water.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Public Meeting Information:

For the opportunity to ask more questions or participate in decisions that may affect your drinking water quality, the Town Council meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

The water for La Plata comes from four wells in the lower Patapsco aquifer and two wells in the upper Patapsco formation. After the water is pumped out of the wells, we add disinfectant to protect against microbial contaminants. The Maryland Department of the Environment has performed an assessment of the source water.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain compounds in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.



Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the past several years. The presence of these compounds in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the table is from testing done January 1 – December 31, 2008. The State requires

us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. In addition, some wells are maintained as back-up wells and were not used during previous year. Consequently, no monitoring data is reported for these wells.

LaPlata Treated Water Quality Report 2008				
Definitions				
Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.			
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.			
Action Level (AL)	The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.			
Treatment Technique (TT)	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water			
ppm = parts per million or milligrams per liter				
ppb = parts per billion or micrograms per liter				
mrem/yr = millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)				
pCi/l = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)				
Contaminant	Highest Level Allowed (EPA's MCL)	Highest Level Detected	Ideal Goal (EPA's MCLG)	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Regulated at the Treatment Plant				
Well 5 - Kent Ave on Kent Square - Plant I.D. 01				
Fluoride	4 ppm	0.49 ppm	4 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	2 mg/L	0.048 mg/l	2 mg/L	Erosion of natural deposits
Di (2 - Ethylhexyl) Phthalate (2004 Testing)	6 ppb	1.7 ppb	0 ppb	PVC Plastics
Well 6 - Wills Park, on Diggs Circle - Plant I.D. 02				
Fluoride (2004 Testing)	4 ppm	0.78 ppm	4 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (2004 Testing)	2 ppm	0.003 ppm	2 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Di (2 - Ethylhexyl) Phthalate (2004 Testing)	6 ppb	2 ppb	0 ppb	PVC Plastics
Well 8 - Box Elder Road - Plant I.D. 04				
Fluoride	4 ppm	0.86 ppm	4 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha	15 pCi/l	7 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta	4 mrem/year	0.4 mrem/year	0 mrem/year	Decay of natural deposits
Pentachlorophenol (2004 Testing)	1 ppb	0.13 ppb	0 ppb	Discharge from wood
Di (2 - Ethylhexyl) Phthalate (2006 Testing)	6 ppb	1.1 ppb	0 ppb	PVC Plastics
Well 9 - Clarks Run on Silver Linden Drive - Plant I.D. 05				
Fluoride	4 ppm	0.8 ppm	4 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha	15 pCi/l	7 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta	4 mrem/year	0.16 mrem/year	0 mrem/year	Decay of natural deposits
Combine Radium (226 & 228)	5 pCi/l	0.2 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits
Di (2 - Ethylhexyl) Phthalate (2004 Testing)	6 ppb	3.5 ppb	0 ppb	PVC Plastics
Well 10 - Washington Ave - Plant I.D. 06				
Antimony (2007 Testing)	6 ppb	2 ppb	6 ppb	Petroleum refineries discharge
Fluoride	4 ppm	0.97 ppm	4 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (2007 Testing)	2 ppm	0.007 ppm	2 ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes
Gross Alpha	15 pCi/l	11 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta	4 mrem/year	0.24 mrem/year	0 mrem/year	Decay of natural deposits
Combine Radium (226 & 228)	5 pCi/l	4.6 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits
Regulated in the Distribution				
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	80 ppb	8.4 ppb	n/a	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	60 ppb	1.5 ppb	n/a	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Regulated at the Consumer's Tap				
Copper	1.3 ppm (AL)	90th percentile = 0.293 ppm	1.3 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures and systems

Important information about Gross Alpha

Alpha emitters are naturally occurring radiations in soil, air and water. These emitters generally occurs when certain elements decays or breaks down in the environment. The emitters enters drinking water through various methods including the erosion of natural deposits. There are no immediate health risk from consuming water that contains gross alpha, however some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Currently, the highest level of gross alpha detected is 11pCi/l which is below the 15pCi/l MCL.